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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, on its own behalf and as trustee on behalf of the Lummi Nation,

Plaintiff,

ν.

KEITH E. MILNER and SHIRLEY A. MILNER, et al.,

Defendants.

THE LUMMI-NATION,

Intervenor - Plaintiff

No. C01-809 RBL

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO MODIFY OR SUSPEND INJUNCTION PENDING APPEAL



01-CV-00809-ORD

This matter is before the Court on defendants' Motion to Modify or Suspend Injunction Pending Appeal. In June, 2003, the district court ordered defendants, owners of four waterfront homes in Whatcom County, to remove all shore defense structures situated seaward of mean high water. As of this date, defendants have taken no action to remove the structures. Defendants dispute the district court's ruling and request a suspension of the injunction pending appeal.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 62 (c), "[w]hen an appeal is taken from an interlocutory or final judgment granting . . . an injunction, the court in its discretion may suspend, modify, restore or grant an injunction during the pendency of the appeal upon such terms as to bond or otherwise as it considers

ORDER GRANTING STAY OF INJUNCTION

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proper for the security of the adverse party." In determining whether to stay an injunction, the moving party must demonstrate "either (1) a combination of probable success on the merits and the possibility of irreparable injury or (2) that serious questions are raised and the balance of hardships tips sharply in its favor." Tribal Village of Akutan v. Hodel, 859 F.2d 662, 663 (9th Cir. 1988). The court may also consider the public interest in certain cases. Id.

Based on the possibility of irreparable injury if shore defense structures are removed, and in the interest of preserving the status quo pending appeal, the Court finds that a stay of the injunction would be appropriate. The stay, however, shall be conditioned upon defendants' payment of fair market rental value to the Lummi Nation. The exact amount of each defendant's payment shall be determined using the same method of calculation that was used in determining the amounts currently paid by neighboring homeowners.

For all of the foregoing reasons, defendants' Motion to Modify or Suspend Injunction Pending Appeal (Dkt. #267) is **GRANTED**. Plaintiff's related Motion for Leave to File Surreply (Dkt. #277) is **GRANTED**.

DATED this _____day of August, 2004.

RONALD B. LEIGHTON United States District Judge